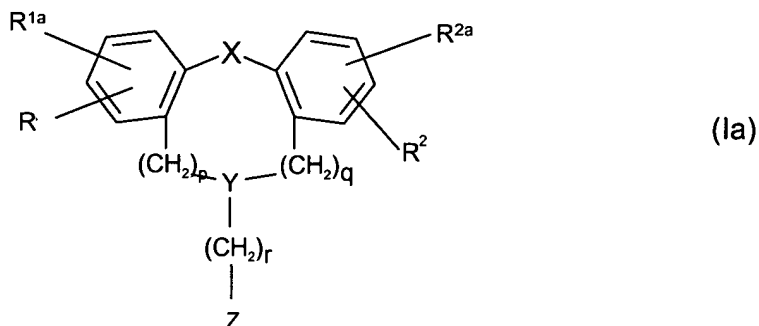


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 35-38 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1-34 under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.12(a)(2)(ii) as follows:

- (Amended) A method for treating a condition related to angiogenesis, said method comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound having the general formula Ia



wherein R^1 , R^{1a} , R^2 and R^{2a} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, hydroxy, NR^7R^8 , cyano, methylthio or $-SO_2NR^7R^8$ wherein R^7 and R^8 independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

Y is $>\underline{N}-CH_2-$, $>\underline{CH}-CH_2-$ or $>\underline{C}=CH-$ wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system; or

Y is $-\underline{CH_2N}(-)CH_2-$, $-CH_2\underline{N}(-)CH_2-$, $-(\underline{C=O})\underline{N}(-)CH_2-$, $-CH_2\underline{N}(-)(\underline{C=O})-$, $-\underline{CH_2CH}(-)CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(-)CH_2-$, $-\underline{CH_2C}(-)=CH-$, $-CH=\underline{C}(-)CH_2-$, $-\underline{OCH}(-)CH_2-$, $-CH_2\underline{CH}(-)O-$, $-\underline{SCH}(-)CH_2-$, $-CH_2\underline{CH}(-)S-$, wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system; or

Y is $>\underline{N}-$, $>\underline{CH}-$, $>\underline{N}-(C=O)-$ or $>\underline{C}=C(R^8)-$, wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system and R^8 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; or

Y is $>\underline{CH}-O-$ or $>\underline{CH}-S(O)_y$, wherein y is 0, 1 or 2, or $-N(R^8)-$ wherein R^8 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl, and wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system; and

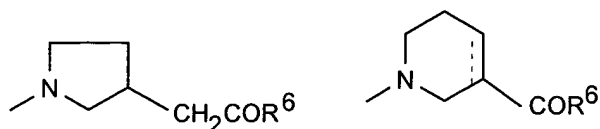
X is completion of an optional bond, ortho-phenylene, $-O-$, $-S-$, $-C(R^7R^8)-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2-(C=O)-$, $-(C=O)-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-N(R^8)-$

(C=O)-, -(C=O)-N(R⁸)-, -O-CH₂-, -CH₂-O-, -OCH₂O-, -CH₂OCH₂-, -S-CH₂-, -CH₂-S-, -
 (CH₂)N(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)(CH₂)-, -N(CH₃)SO₂-, -SO₂N(CH₃)-, -CH(R⁹)CH₂-, -CH₂CH(R⁹)-, -(C=O)-
 , -N(R⁸)- or -(S=O)- wherein R⁷ and R⁸ independently are hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl; and wherein
 R⁹ is C₁₋₆-alkyl or phenyl; and

p and q independently are 0 or 1; and

r is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and

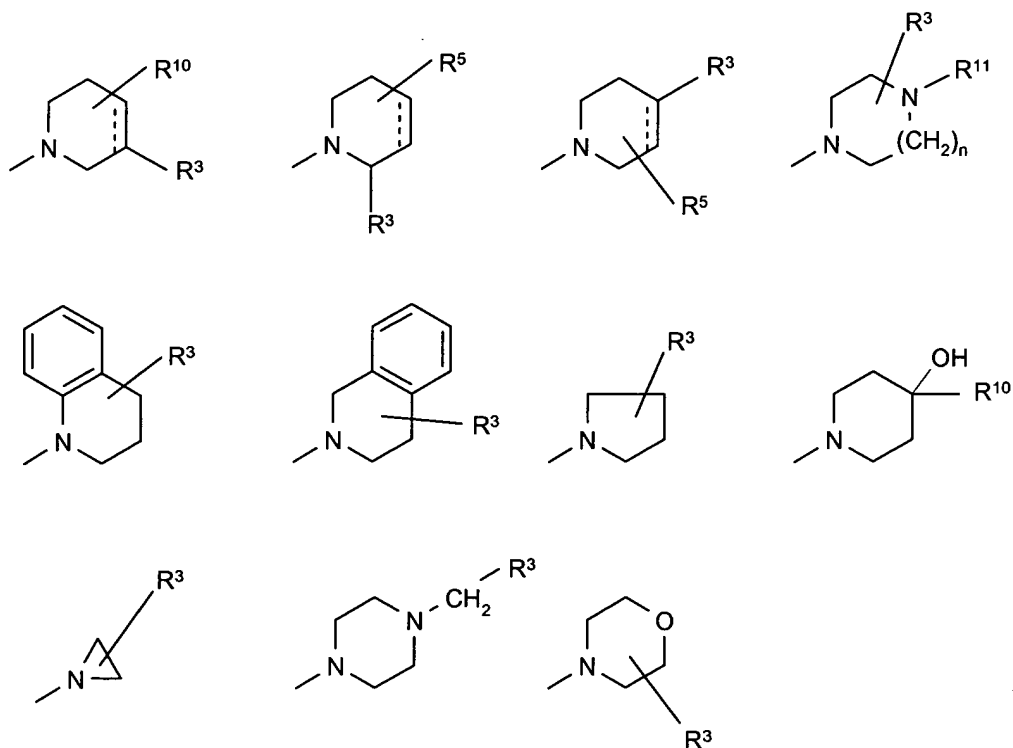
Z is selected from



wherein R⁶ is OH or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and

.... is optionally a single bond or a double bond; or

Z is selected from



wherein n is 1 or 2;

R^3 is $-(CH_2)_mOH$ or $-(CH_2)_sCOR^4$ wherein m is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and s is 0 or 1 and wherein

R^4 is $-OH$, $-NH_2$, $-NHOH$ or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

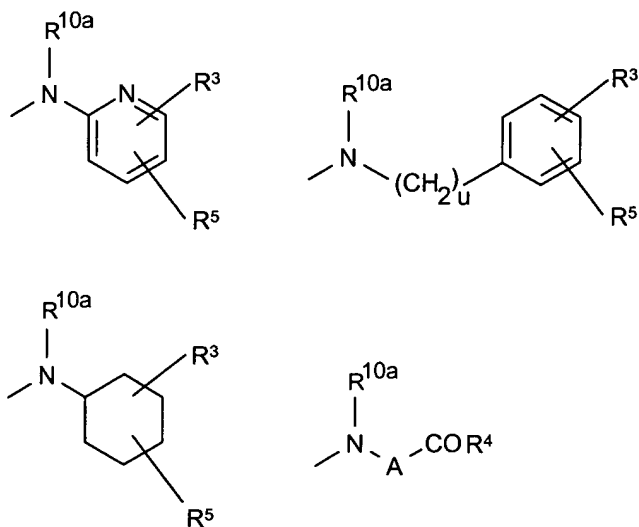
R^5 is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R^{10} is hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy or phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R^{11} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

.... is optionally a single bond or a double bond; or

Z is selected from



wherein u is 0 or 1;

R^3 is $-(CH_2)_mOH$ or $-(CH_2)_sCOR^4$ wherein m is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and s is 0 or 1 and wherein

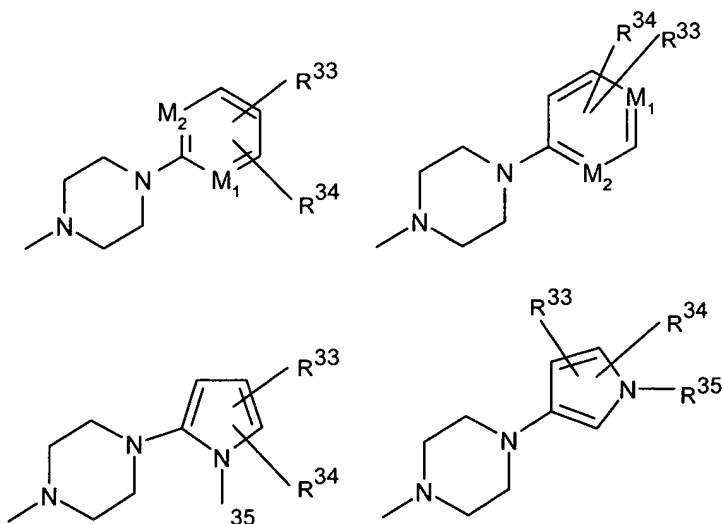
R^4 is $-OH$, $-NH_2$, $-NHOH$ or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R^5 is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R^{10a} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

A is C_{1-6} -alkylene, C_{2-6} -alkenylene or C_{2-6} -alkynylene; or

Z is selected from



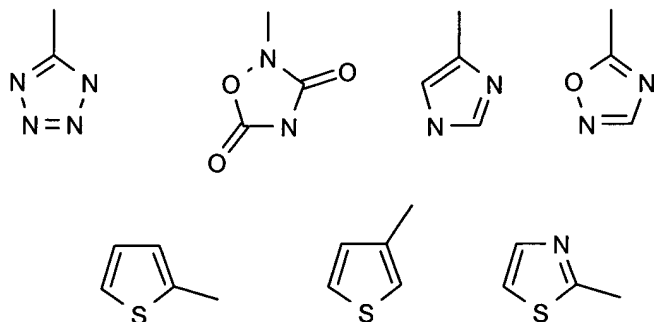
wherein M_1 and M_2 independently are C or N; and

R^{35} is hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, phenyl or benzyl; and

R^{33} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, nitro or cyano; and

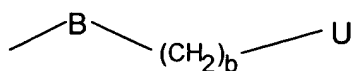
R^{34} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, nitro, cyano, $-(CH_2)_wCOR^{31}$, $-(CH_2)_wOH$ or $-(CH_2)_wSO_2R^{31}$ wherein R^{31} is hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkoxy or NHR^{32} , wherein R^{32} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl, and w is 0, 1 or 2; or

R^{34} is selected from



; or

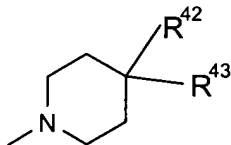
Z is



wherein b is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and

B is $-\text{CH}=\text{CR}^{49}-$, $-\text{CR}^{49}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, $-(\text{C}=\text{O})-$, $-(\text{C}=\text{CH}_2)-$, $-(\text{CR}^{49}\text{R}^{40})-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{OR}^{41})-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{NHR}^{41})-$, phenylene, C_{3-7} -cycloalkylene or the completion of a bond, wherein R^{49} and R^{40} independently are hydrogen, C_{1-6} -unbranched alkyl, C_{3-6} -branched alkyl or C_{3-7} -cycloalkyl and wherein R^{41} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

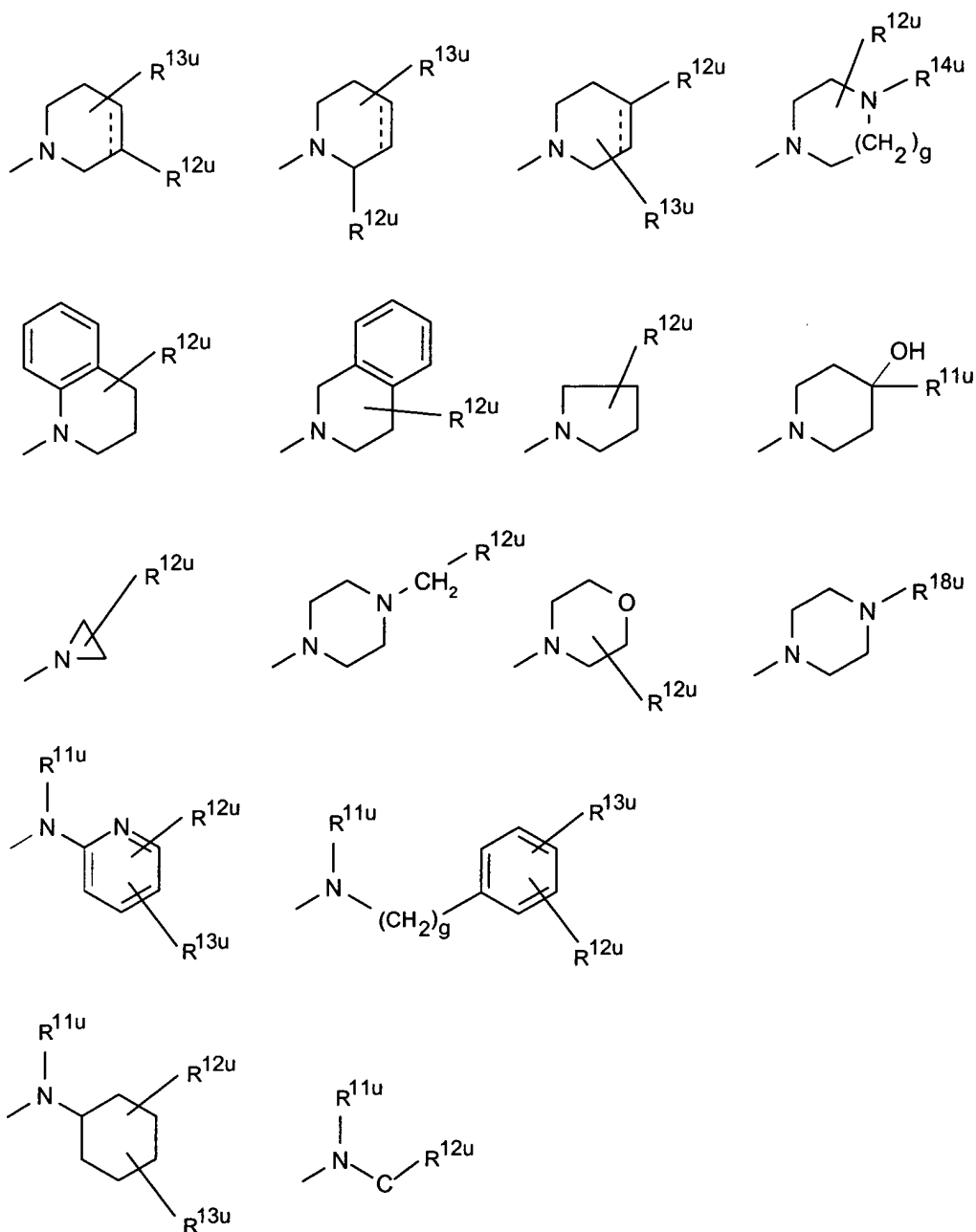
U is



wherein R^{42} is hydrogen, $-(\text{CH}_2)_c\text{OH}$ or $-(\text{CH}_2)_d\text{COR}^{47}$ wherein c is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and d is 0 or 1 and wherein R^{47} is $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{NHR}^{44}$ or C_{1-6} -alkoxy wherein R^{44} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

R^{43} is cyano, $-\text{NR}^{45}\text{R}^{47}$, $-\text{NR}^{45}-\text{V}$ or $-(\text{CHR}^{48})_e-\text{V}$ wherein R^{45} and R^{47} independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl and wherein e is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and wherein R^{48} is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, $-\text{NR}^{45}\text{R}^{47}$ or $-\text{COOH}$, and wherein V is C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, which rings may optionally be substituted with one or more halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methylthio, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; or

U is selected from



wherein g is 0, 1 or 2; and

R^{11u} is hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy or phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R^{12u} is $-(CH_2)_hOH$ or $-(CH_2)_jCOR^{17u}$ wherein h is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and j is 0 or 1 and

wherein R^{17u} is $-OH$, $-NHR^{20u}$ or C_{1-6} -alkoxy wherein R^{20u} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

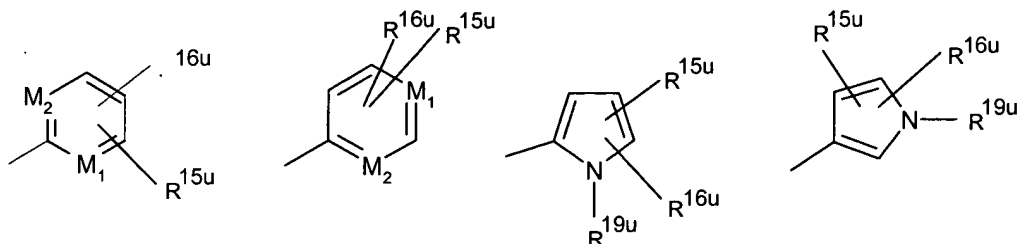
R^{13u} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R^{14u} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

C is C₁₋₆-alkylene, C₂₋₆-alkenylene or C₂₋₆-alkynylene; and

.... is optionally a single bond or a double bond; and

R^{18u} is selected from



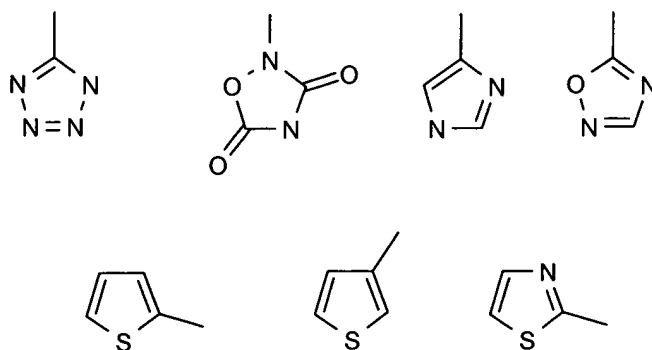
wherein M₁ and M₂ independently are C or N; and

R^{19u} is hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, phenyl or benzyl; and

R^{15u} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, nitro or cyano; and

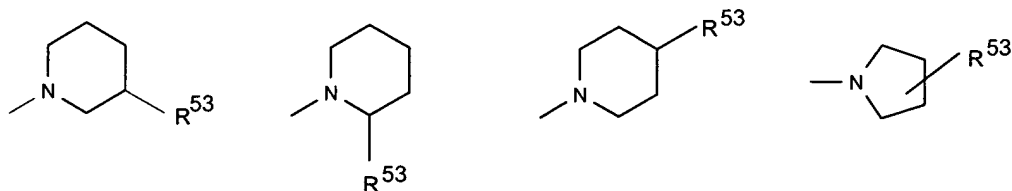
R^{16u} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, nitro, cyano, -(CH₂)_kCOR^{17u}, -(CH₂)_kOH or - (CH₂)_kSO₂R^{17u} wherein k is 0, 1 or 2; or

R^{16u} is selected from



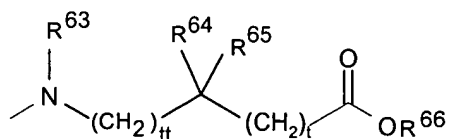
; or

Z is selected from



wherein R⁵³ is -(CH₂)_{pp}COOH wherein pp is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; or

Z is



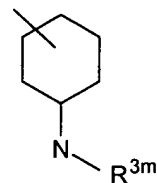
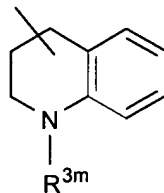
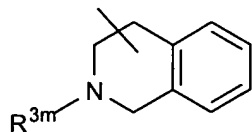
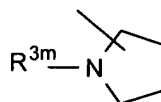
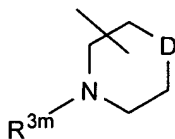
wherein tt and t independently are 0, 1 or 2; and

R⁶³ is H, C₁₋₆-alkyl or optionally substituted benzyl;

R⁶⁴ and R⁶⁵ independently are H, C₁₋₈-alkyl, C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl, phenyl, thienyl, benzyl, or R⁶⁴ and R⁶⁵ together with the C-atom they are attached to form a 3 - 8 membered carbocyclic ring; and

R⁶⁶ is H or C₁₋₆-alkyl; or

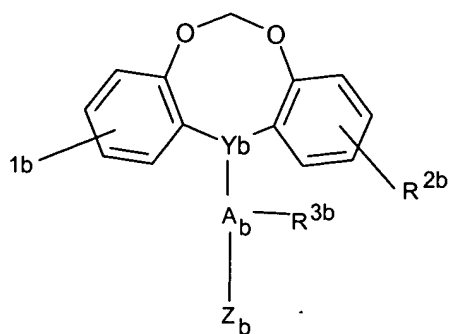
Z is selected from



wherein D is -CH₂-, -O-, -S- or -N(R⁷)- wherein R⁷ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl; and

R^{3m} is -(CH₂)_{mm}OH or -(CH₂)_{mp}COR⁴ wherein mm and mp are 1, 2, 3 or 4 and R⁴ is OH, NH₂, NHOH or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; or

having the general formula Ib



(Ib)

wherein R^{1b} and R^{2b} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy,

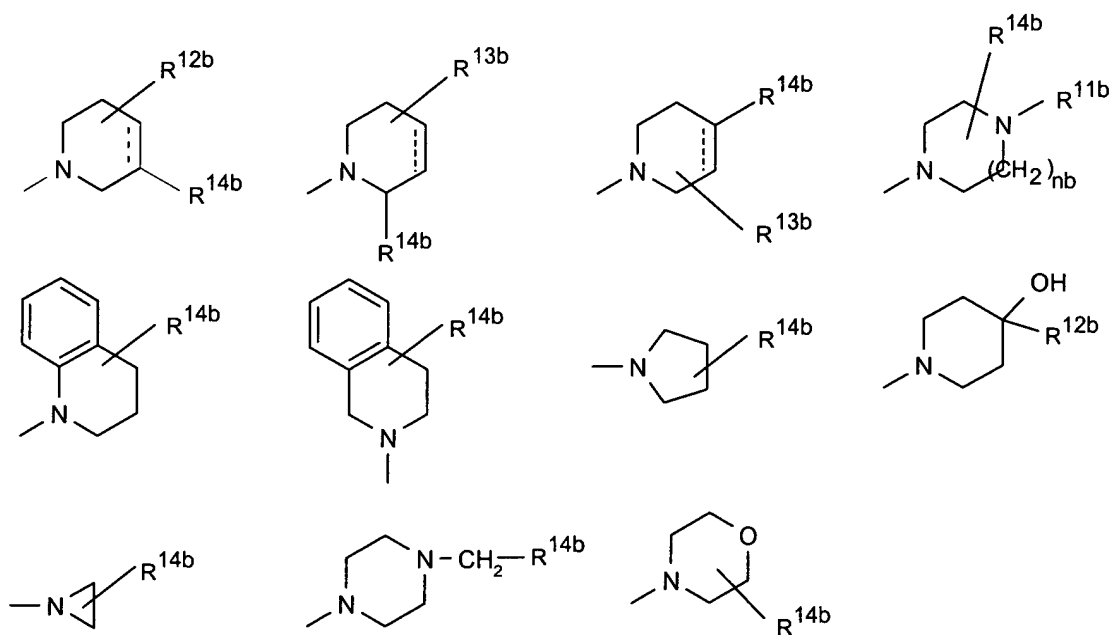
C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

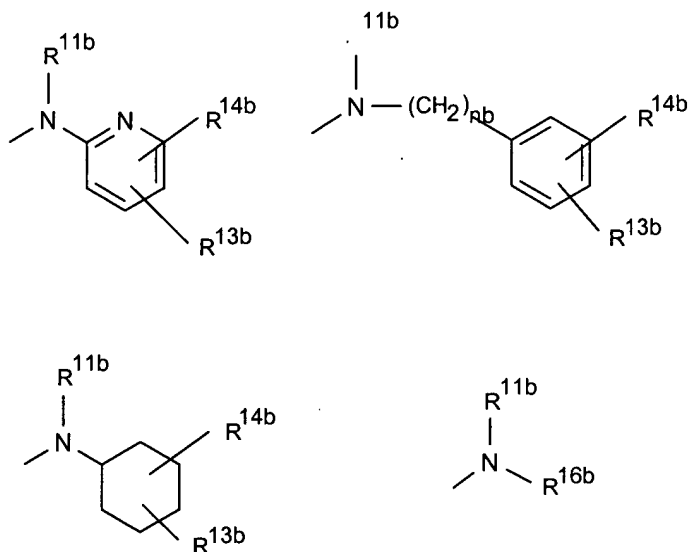
R^{3b} is hydrogen or C_{1-3} -alkyl; and

A_b is C_{1-3} -alkylene; and

Y_b is $>\underline{C}H-CH_2-$, $>\underline{C}=CH-$, $>\underline{C}H-O-$, $>\underline{C}=N-$, $>\underline{N}-CH_2-$ wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system; and

Z_b is selected from





wherein nb is 1 or 2; and

R^{11b} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

R^{12b} is hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy or phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, trifluoro-methyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

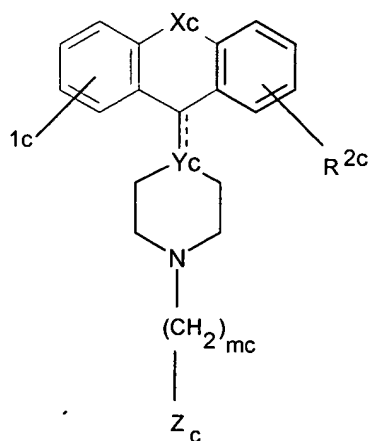
R^{13b} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R^{14b} is $-(CH_2)_{mb}OH$ or $-(CH_2)_{tb}COR^{15b}$ wherein mb is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and tb is 0 or 1 and wherein R^{15b} is $-OH$, NH_2 , $-NHOH$ or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R^{16b} is C_{1-6} -alkyl or $-B_b-COR^{15b}$, wherein B_b is C_{1-6} -alkylene, C_{2-6} -alkenylene or C_{2-6} -alkynylene and R^{15b} is the same as above; and

... is optionally a single bond or a double bond; or

having the general formula Ic



(Ic)

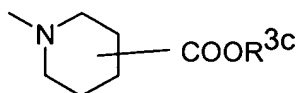
wherein R^{1c} and R^{2c} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy;

X_c is ortho-phenylene, -O-, -S-, $-C(R^{6c}R^{7c})-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2-(C=O)-$, $-(C=O)-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-N(R^{8c})-(C=O)-$, $-(C=O)-N(R^{8c})-$, $-O-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-O-$, $-OCH_2O-$, $-S-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-S-$, $-(CH_2)N(R^{8c})-$, $-N(R^{8c})(CH_2)-$, $-N(CH_3)SO_2-$, $-SO_2N(CH_3)-$, $-CH(R^{10c})CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(R^{10c})-$, $-(C=O)-$, $-N(R^{9c})-$ or $-(S=O)-$ wherein R^{6c} , R^{7c} , R^{8c} and R^{9c} independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl, and wherein R^{10c} is C_{1-6} -alkyl or phenyl; Y_c is C or N;

.... is optionally a single bond or a double bond, and is a single bond when Y_c is N;

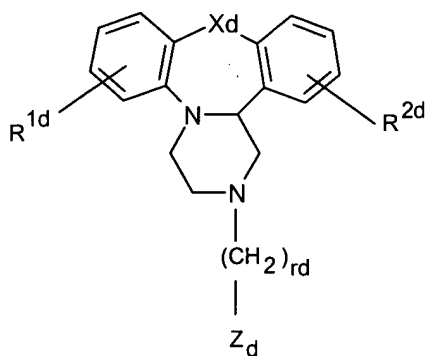
mc is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; and

Z_c is $-COOR^{3c}$ or



wherein R^{3c} is H or C_{1-6} -alkyl; or

having the general formula Id



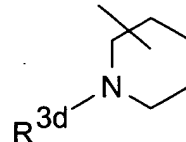
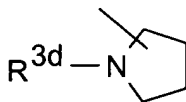
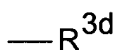
(Id)

wherein R^{1d} and R^{2d} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

X_d is -O-, -S- or -S(=O)-; and

rd is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 ; and

Z_d is selected from



wherein R^{3d} is $-(CH_2)_{md}OH$ or $-(CH_2)_{pd}COR^{4d}$ wherein md and pd independently are 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and R^{4d} is OH, NH_2 , $NHOH$ or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

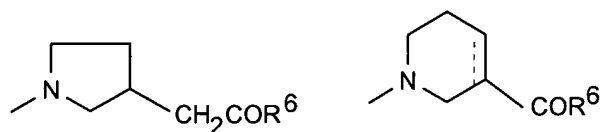
2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the condition is related to cancer.

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the condition is related to ocular neovascularization.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein, in formula Ia, R^1 , R^{1a} , R^2 and R^{2a} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

Y is $>\underline{N}-CH_2-$, $>\underline{CH}-CH_2-$ or $>\underline{C}=CH-$ wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system; and

X is -O-, -S-, -C(R⁷R⁸)-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH=CH-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -N(R⁸)-(C=O)-, -O-CH₂-, -(C=O)- or -(S=O)- wherein R⁷ and R⁸ independently are hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl; and
 p and q are 0, and
 r is 1, 2 or 3; and
 Z is selected from



wherein R⁶ is OH or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and
 is optionally a single bond or a double bond; and
 a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 4 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

(R)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(S)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-1,2,5,6-tetrahydro-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(Fluoren-9-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(5H-Dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(Thioxanthen-9-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(4-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-butyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(3-Chloro-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(10H-Phenothiazin-10-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(10H-Phenoxazin-10-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(S)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-pyrrolidinacetic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(3-Methyl-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(2-Trifluoromethyl-10H-phenothiazin-10-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(5-Oxo-10H-phenothiazin-10-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(11H-10-Oxa-5-aza-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-1,2,5,6-tetrahydro-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(6,7-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,g]azocin-12-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-Methoxy-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(10-Methyl-11-oxo-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,e][1,4]diazepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(9(H)-Oxo-10H-acridin-10-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid hydrochloride;

(R)-1-(2-(6,11-Dihydrodibenz[b,e]oxepin-11-ylidene)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid hydrochloride;

(R)-1-(3-(2-Chloro-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid hydrochloride;

(R)-1-(3-(2-Bromo-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid hydrochloride;

(R)-1-(3-(2-Fluoro-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid hydrochloride;

(R)-1-(3-(2-Iodo-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid hydrochloride;

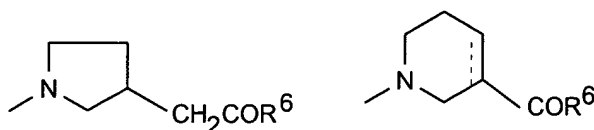
(Z)-(R)-1-(3-(2-Iodo-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid hydrochloride;

(E)-(R)-1-(3-(2-Iodo-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid hydrochloride;

(R)-1-(3-(2-Methoxy-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid hydrochloride,

[or] and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt [thereof] of any of the foregoing.

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein, in formula Ia,
R¹, R^{1a}, R² and R^{2a} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and
Y is -CH₂N(-)CH₂-, -CH₂N(-)CH₂-, -(C=O)N(-)CH₂-, -CH₂N(-)(C=O)-, -CH₂CH(-)CH₂-, -CH₂CH(-)CH₂-, -CH₂C(-)=CH-, -CH=C(-)CH₂-, -OCH(-)CH₂-, -CH₂CH(-)O-, -SCH(-)CH₂-, -CH₂CH(-)S-, wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system; and
X is -O-, -S-, -C(R⁷R⁸)-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH=CH-, -CH₂-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -N(R⁸)-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-N(R⁸)-, -O-CH₂-, -CH₂-O-, -S-CH₂-, -CH₂-S-, -N(R⁸)-, -(C=O)- or -(S=O)- wherein R⁷ and R⁸ independently are hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl; and
p and q independently are 0 or 1; and
r is 1, 2 or 3; and
Z is selected from



wherein R⁶ is OH or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and
... is optionally a single bond or a double bond; and
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 6 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

(R)-1-(3-(6,11-Dioxo-6,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,e]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(6,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,e]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(5,11-Dihydro-10H-dibenzo[b,e][1,4]diazepin-10-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(11H-Dibenzo[b,f][1,4]thiazepin-10-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(11H-Dibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepin-10-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(11H-Dibenz[b,f][1,4]oxathiepin-11-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(11H-Dibenzo[b,e][1,4]dithiepin-11-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(11H-Dibenz[b,e][1,4]oxathiepin-10-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(11,12-Dihydro-10H-dibenz[b,g][1,5]oxazocin-11-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(11,12-Dihydro-10H-dibenzo[b,g][1,5]thiazocin-11-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(11,12-Dihydro-6H-dibenz[b,f]azocin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(11,12-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,e]cycloocten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(6-Oxo-11,12-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azocin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(7,12-Dihydro-6H-dibenzo[a,d]cycloocten-6-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(5-Methyl-5,11-dihydro-dibenz[b,f]azepin-10-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(6-Oxo-5,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,e]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(11-Oxo-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,e][1,4]diazepin-10-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(6-Oxo-11,12-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azocin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-dibenz[b,f][1,4]oxazepin-10-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(5,6,11,12-Tetrahydro-dibenz[b,f]azocin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(11-Oxo-6,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,e]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

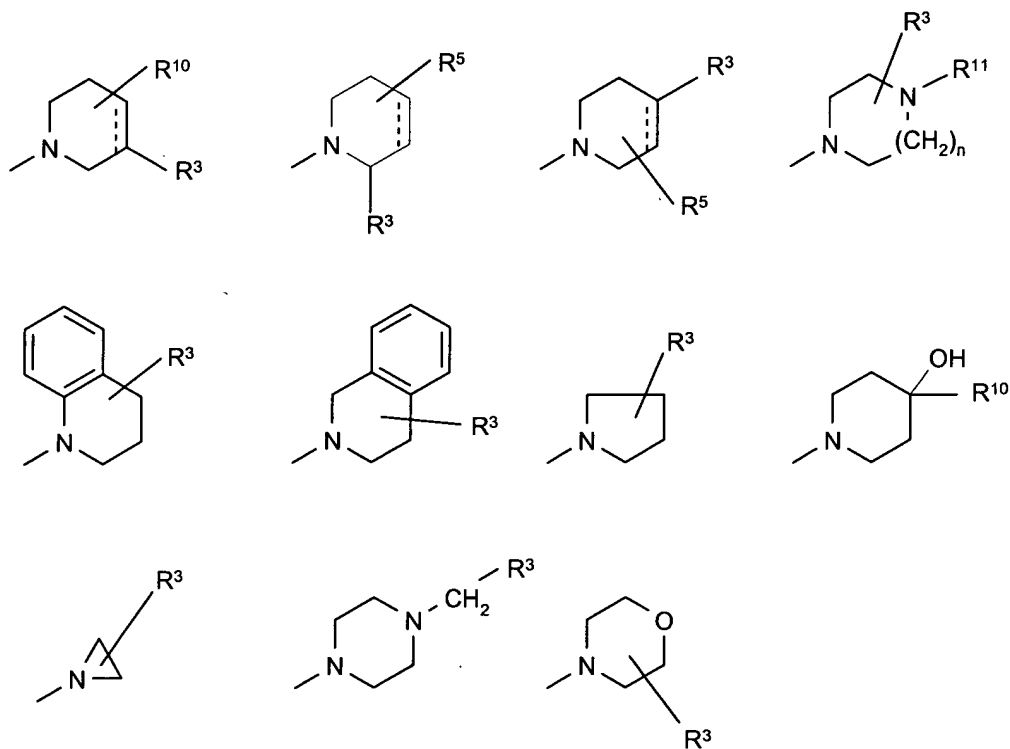
(R)-1-(3-(5-Methyl-dibenz[b,f]azepin-10-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(6,7-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,g][1,5]oxazocin-6-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(11,12-Dihydro-dibenz[a,e]cycloocten-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

8. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein, in formula Ia,
 R^1 , R^{1a} , R^2 and R^{2a} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, NR^7R^8 , hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy wherein R^7 and R^8 independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and
 Y is $>\underline{N}$ -CH₂-, $>\underline{CH}$ -CH₂- or $>\underline{C}$ =CH- wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system; and
 X is -O-, -S-, -C(R^7R^8)-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH=CH-, -CH₂-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -N(R^8)-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-N(R^8)-, -O-CH₂-, -CH₂-O-, -S-CH₂-, -CH₂-S-, -N(R^8)-, -(C=O)- or -(S=O)- wherein R^7 and R^8 independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and
 p and q are 0; and
 r is 1, 2 or 3; and
 Z is selected from



wherein n is 1 or 2; and

R^3 is $-(CH_2)_mOH$ or $-(CH_2)_sCOR^4$ wherein m is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and s is 0 or 1 and wherein

R^4 is -OH, -NH₂, -NHOH or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R^5 is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R¹⁰ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy or phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and

R¹¹ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl; and

... is optionally a single bond or a double bond; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 8 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidine-carboxamide;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-2-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinyl)methanol;

4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-(3-(10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinol;

4-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-2-piperazinecarboxylic acid;

(2S,4R)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-4-hydroxy-2-pyrrolidinecarboxylic acid;

4-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-2-morpholinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-2-aziridinecarboxylic acid;

2-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-4-isoquinolinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-4-methyl-[1,4]-diazepane-6-carboxylic acid;

2-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-3-isoquinolinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid hydroxamide;

(4-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)piperazin-1-yl)acetic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

4-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-2-piperazinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-4-piperidineacetic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxamide;

(R)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-2-pyrrolidinecarboxylic acid;

(S)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-2-pyrrolidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-2-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10H-Phenoxazin-10-yl)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(3-Chloro-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidineacetic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-2-methyl-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-quinuclidiniumcarboxylate;

1-(3-(2,8-Dibromo-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(3,7-Dichloro-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(3-Methyl-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(3,7-Dimethyl-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(3-Dimethylamino-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-2-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(S)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-2-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(6,11-Dihydrodibenzo[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(6,11-Dihydrodibenzo[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)-1-ethyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(2-Chloro-6,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(2-Chloro-6,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)-1-ethyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(6,11-Dihydrodibenzo[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(2-Bromo-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-pyrrolidineacetic acid;

1-(3-(3-Methyl-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-pyrrolidineacetic acid;

1-(3-(6,11-Dihydro-dibenz[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(2-Fluoro-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-2-piperidineacetic acid;

1-(3-(Phenothiazin-10-yl)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-ethyl)-2-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-ethyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

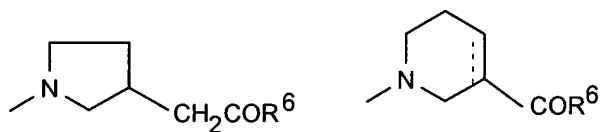
1-(2-(6,11-Dihydrodibenzo[b,e]oxepin-11-ylidene)-1-ethyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

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10. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein in, formula Ia,
 R^1 , R^{1a} , R^2 and R^{2a} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl
 or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and
 Y is $>\underline{N}-CH_2-$, $>\underline{CH}-CH_2-$ or $>\underline{C}=CH-$ wherein only the underscored atom participates in the
 ring system; and
 X is ortho-phenylene, $-CH_2-(C=O)-$, $-(C=O)-CH_2-$, $-S-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-S-$, $-(CH_2)N(R^8)-$, $-$
 $N(R^8)(CH_2)-$, $-N(CH_3)SO_2-$, $-SO_2N(CH_3)-$, $-CH(R^9)CH_2-$ or $-CH_2CH(R^9)-$ wherein R^8 is
 hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl and R^9 is C_{1-6} -alkyl or phenyl; and
 p and q are 0; and
 r is 1, 2 or 3; and
 Z is selected from



wherein R^6 is OH or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and
 is optionally a single bond or a double bond;
 and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

11. (Amended) The method according to claim 10 wherein the compound is selected
 from the group consisting of:

1-(3-(9H-Tribenz[b,d,f]azepin-9-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(Tribenzo[a,c,e]cyclohepten-9-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(5-Methyl-5,6-dihydrodibenz[b,e]azepin-11-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic
 acid;

1-(3-(6-Methyl-6H-dibenzo[c,f][1,2]thiazepin-5,5-dioxide-11-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-
 piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10-Methyl-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,e]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10-Phenyl-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,e]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(6,11-Dihydro-11H-dibenzo[b,e][1,4]thiazepin-11-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10-Methyl-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,e][1,4]diazepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(10-Oxo-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(6-Methyl-6,11-dihydro-dibenzo[c,f][1,2,5]thiadiazepin-5,5-dioxide-11-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(5-Methyl-5,6-dihydrodibenz[b,e]azepin-11-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(9H-Tribenzo[a,c,e]cyclohepten-9-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(9H-Tribenzo[b,d,f]azepine-9-yl)propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

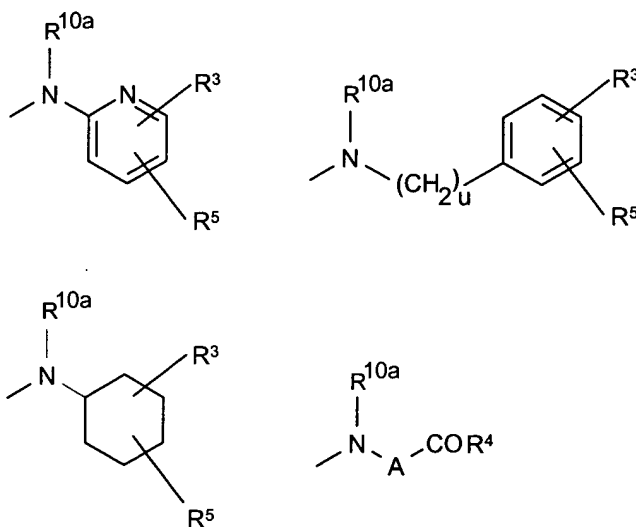
12. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein, in formula Ia, R^1 , R^{1a} , R^2 and R^{2a} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and Y is $>\underline{N}-CH_2-$, $>\underline{CH}-CH_2-$ or $>\underline{C}=CH-$ wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system; and

X is -O-, -S-, -C(R⁷R⁸)-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH=CH-, -CH₂-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -N(R⁸)-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-N(R⁸)-, -O-CH₂-, -CH₂-O-, -S-CH₂-, -CH₂-S-, -N(R⁸)-, -(C=O)- or -(S=O)- wherein R⁷ and R⁸ independently are hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl; and

p and q are 0; and

r is 1, 2 or 3; and

Z is selected from



wherein u is 0 or 1;

R³ is -(CH₂)_mOH or -(CH₂)_sCOR⁴ wherein m is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and s is 0 or 1 and wherein

R⁴ is -OH, -NH₂, -NHOH or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and

R⁵ is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and

R^{10a} is hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl; and

A is C₁₋₆-alkylene, C₂₋₆-alkenylene or C₂₋₆-alkynylene; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(N-Methyl-N-(3-(10,11-dihydrodibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)amino)propionic acid;

4-(N-Methyl-N-(3-(10,11-dihydrodibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)amino)butyric acid;

3-((3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)amino)propionic acid;

2-(N(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-N-methyl-amino)succinic acid;

2-((3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)amino)benzoic acid;

2-(N-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-N-methylamino)nicotinic acid;

2-((N-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-N-methylamino)methyl)benzoic acid;

2-((N-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-N-methylamino)-1-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid;

2-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propylamino)pyridin-3-ol;

3-((3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)amino)benzoic acid;

2-((3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)amino)benzoic acid;

2-(N-(3-(3-Chloro-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)amino)benzoic acid;

5-Bromo-2-(N-(3-(10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)amino)benzoic acid,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

14. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein, in formula Ia,

R^1 , R^{1a} , R^2 and R^{2a} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy;

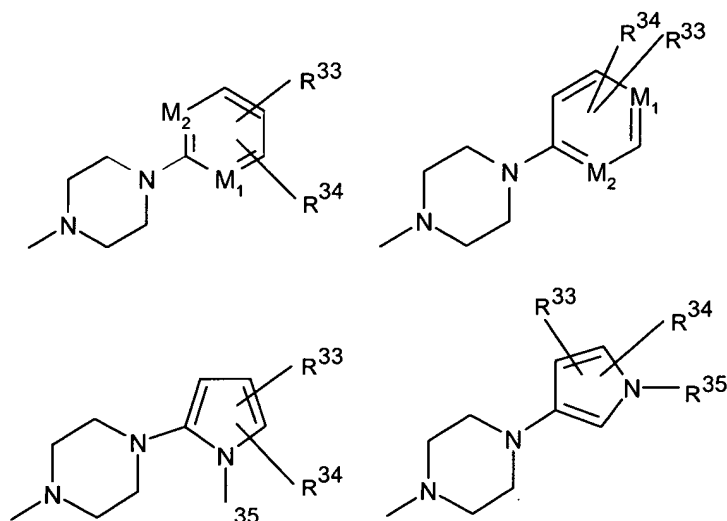
Y is $>\underline{N}$ -CH₂-, $>\underline{CH}$ -CH₂-, $>\underline{C}$ =CH- or $>\underline{CH}$ -O- wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system; and

X is ortho-phenylene, -O-, -S-, -C(R^7R^8)-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH=CH-, -CH₂-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -N(R^8)-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-N(R^8)-, -O-CH₂-, -CH₂-O-, -OCH₂O-, -S-CH₂-, -CH₂-S-, -(CH₂)N(R^8)-, -N(R^8)(CH₂)-, -N(CH₃)SO₂-, -SO₂N(CH₃)-, -CH(R^9)CH₂-, -CH₂CH(R^9)-, -(C=O)-, -N(R^8)- or -(S=O)- wherein R^7 and R^8 independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and wherein R^9 is C_{1-6} -alkyl or phenyl; and

p and q are 0; and

r is 1, 2 or 3; and

Z is selected from



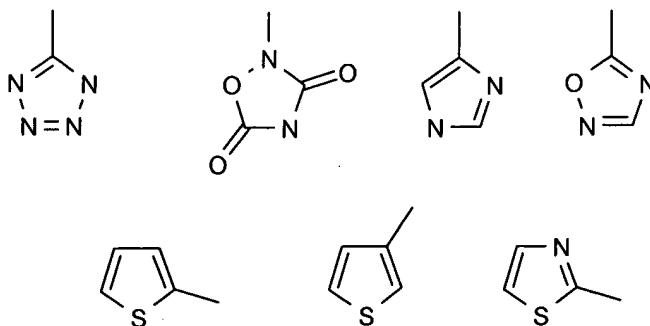
wherein M_1 and M_2 independently are C or N; and

R^{35} is hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, phenyl or benzyl; and

R^{33} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, nitro or cyano; and

R^{34} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, nitro, cyano, $-(CH_2)_wCOR^{31}$, $-(CH_2)_wOH$ or $-(CH_2)_wSO_2R^{31}$ wherein R^{31} is hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkoxy or NHR^{32} , wherein R^{32} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl, and w is 0, 1 or 2; or

R^{34} is selected from



and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

15. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

2-(4-(3-(12H-Dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperazin-1-yl)-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

2-(4-(3-(2,10-Dichloro-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-ylidene)-1-propyl)-piperazin-1-yl)-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

2-(4-(3-(12H-Dibenzo[d,g][1,3,6]dioxazocin-12-yl)-1-propyl)piperazin-1-yl)-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

2-(4-(3-(2-Chloro-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3,6]dioxazocin-12-yl)-1-propyl)-piperazin-1-yl)-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-(2-pyridyl)piperazine;

2-(4-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-propyl)-1-piperazinyl)-3-pyridine-carboxylic acid;

2-(4-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-ethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

6-(4-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-1-piperazinyl)-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

2-(4-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-1-piperazinyl)-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

2-(4-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-1-piperazinyl)-5-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

2-(4-(3-(3-Chloro-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-1-piperazinyl)-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-piperazine;

2-(4-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-1-piperazinyl)-benzonitrile;

2-(4-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-1-piperazinyl)-benzoic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-(3-trifluoromethyl-2-pyridyl)piperazine;

2-(4-(2-(6,11-Dihydro-dibenzo[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)ethyl)piperazin-1-yl)-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

2-(4-(3-(6,11-Dihydrodibenzo[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)-1-propyl)-1-piperazinyl)-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

2-(4-(2-(6,11-Dihydrodibenzo[b,e]thiepin-11-yloxy)ethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

6-(4-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperazin-1-yl)-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

2-(4-(3-(3-Methyl-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-1-piperazinyl)-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

6-(4-(3-(Dibenzo[d,g][1,3,6]dioxazocin-12-yl)-1-propyl)-piperazin-1-yl)-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein, in formula Ia,

R^1 , R^{1a} , R^2 and R^{2a} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

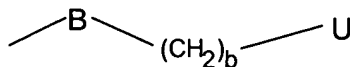
Y is >N- , >CH- , >N-(C=O)- or $\text{>C=C(R}^8\text{)-}$, wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system and R^8 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

X is ortho-phenylene, -O-, -S-, -C(R^7R^8)-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH=CH-, -CH₂-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -N(R^8)-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-N(R^8)-, -O-CH₂-, -CH₂-O-, -OCH₂O-, -CH₂OCH₂-, -S-CH₂-, -CH₂-S-, -(CH₂)N(R^8)-, -N(R^8)(CH₂)-, -N(CH₃)SO₂-, -SO₂N(CH₃)-, -CH(R^9)CH₂-, -CH₂CH(R^9)-, -(C=O)-, -N(R^8)- or -(S=O)- wherein R^7 and R^8 independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and wherein R^9 is C_{1-6} -alkyl or phenyl;

and p and q are 0; and

r is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and

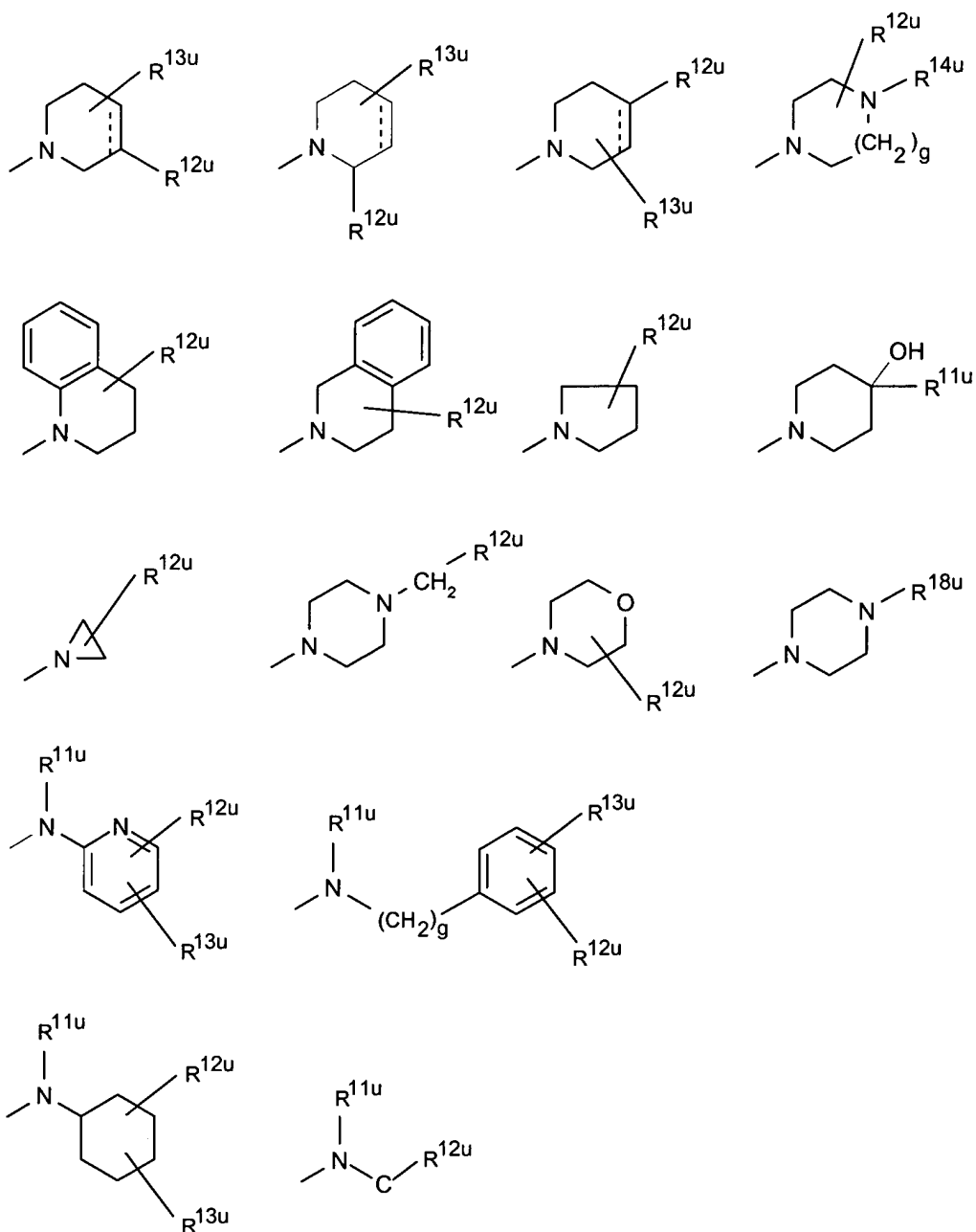
Z is



wherein b is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and

B is -CH=CR⁴⁹-, -CR⁴⁹=CH-, -C≡C-, -(C=O)-, -(C=CH₂)-, -(CR⁴⁹R⁴⁰)-, -CH(OR⁴¹)-, -CH(NHR⁴¹)-, phenylene, C₃₋₇-cycloalkylene or the completion of a bond, wherein R⁴⁹ and R⁴⁰ independently are hydrogen, C₁₋₆-unbranched alkyl, C₃₋₆-branched alkyl or C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl and wherein R⁴¹ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl; and

U is selected from



wherein g is 0, 1 or 2; and

R^{11u} is hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy or phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R^{12u} is $-(CH_2)_hOH$ or $-(CH_2)_jCOR^{17u}$ wherein h is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and j is 0 or 1 and wherein R^{17u} is $-OH$, $-NHR^{20u}$ or C_{1-6} -alkoxy wherein R^{20u} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

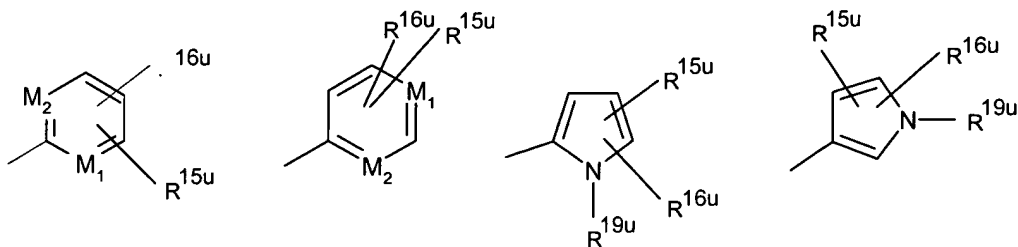
R^{13u} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R^{14u} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

C is C_{1-6} -alkylene, C_{2-6} -alkenylene or C_{2-6} -alkynylene; and

... is optionally a single bond or a double bond; and

R^{18u} is selected from



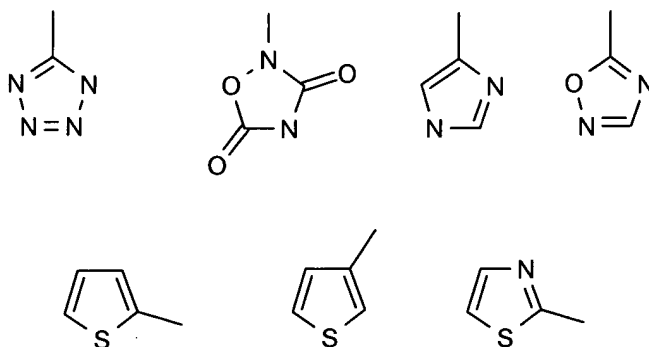
wherein M₁ and M₂ independently are C or N; and

R^{19u} is hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, phenyl or benzyl; and

R^{15u} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, nitro or cyano; and

R^{16u} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, nitro, cyano, -(CH₂)_kCOR^{17u}, -(CH₂)_kOH or -(CH₂)_kSO₂R^{17u} wherein k is 0, 1 or 2; or

R^{16u} is selected from



and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

17. (Amended) The method according to claim 16 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-(2R)-methyl-1-propyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-(2R)-methyl-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-(2R)-methyl-1-propyl)-(2R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(4-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-(2Z)-butenyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propionyl)-(3R)-piperidine-carboxylic acid;

1-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-yl)-1-ethyl)-(3R)-piperidine-carboxylic acid;

1-(4-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-(2E)-butenyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-methyl-1-ethyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-2-methyl-3-oxopropyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(4-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-2-butynyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-methyl-1-propyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-2-hydroxy-1-propyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)methyl)-1-pentyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(3-Chloro-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-(2R)-methyl-1-propyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(3-Trifluoromethyl-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-(2R)-methyl-1-propyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(3-Methyl-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-(2R)-methyl-1-propyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(3-Methoxy-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-(2R)-methyl-1-propyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(2-Chloro-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-(2R)-methyl-1-propyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

2-(4-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-(2R)-methyl-1-propyl)-1-piperazinyl)-nicotinic acid;

1-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-cyclopropylmethyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-cyclopentylmethyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-yl)-1-ethyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-3-oxopropyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(4-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-yl)-benzyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(4-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-2-butyn-1-yl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid

(R)-1-((2R)-Methyl-3-(3-methyl-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-methylpropyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-methyl-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-yl)methyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-(2R)-methyl-1-propyl)-3-pyrrolidinylacetic acid;

2-(1-(3-(10,11-Dihydrodibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-(2R)-methylpropyl)-4-piperazinyl)-nicotinic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)methyl)-1-pentyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

2-(4-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-2-hydroxypropyl)piperazin-1-yl)nicotinic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-2-methyl-3-oxo-propyl)-3-

piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propionyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propionyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-ylcarbonyl)-1-benzyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-ylmethyl)-benzyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-yl)-3-oxo-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(3-Chloro-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-(2R)-methylpropyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-2-hydroxy-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

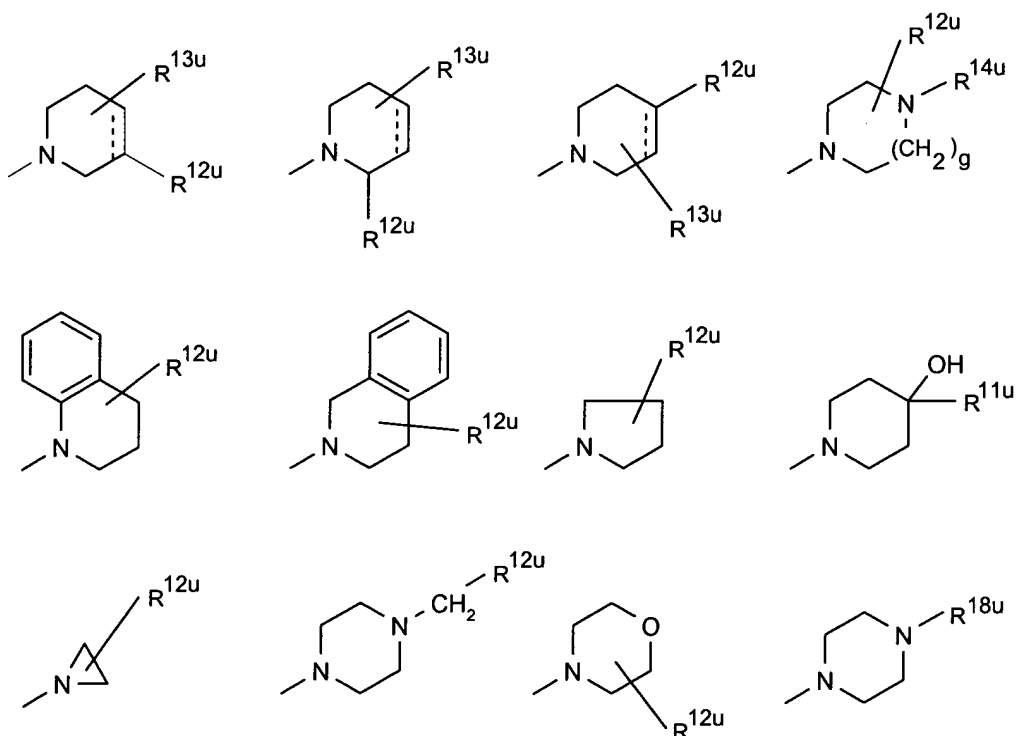
(R)-1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-2-hydroxypropyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

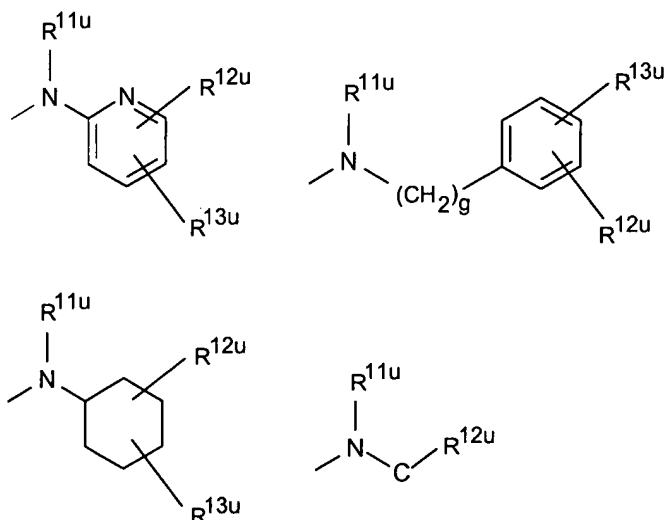
1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-2-propoxypropyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(N-(10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-yl)-N-methylamino)ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

18. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein, in formula Ia,
 R^1 , R^{1a} , R^2 and R^{2a} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl,
 C_{1-6} -alkoxy or methylthio, $-NR^7R^8$ or $-SO_2NR^7R^8$ wherein R^7 and R^8 independently are
hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and
 Y is $>\underline{CH}$ -O- or $>\underline{CH}$ -S(O)_y wherein y is 0, 1 or 2, or $-N(R^8)-$ wherein R^8 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -
alkyl; and
 X is completion of an optional bond, ortho-phenylene, -O-, -S-, $-C(R^7R^8)-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, -
 $CH=CH-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2-(C=O)-$, $-(C=O)-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-N(R^8)-$
 $(C=O)-$, $-(C=O)-N(R^8)-$, $-O-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-O-$, $-OCH_2O-$, $-CH_2OCH_2-$, $-S-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-S-$, -
 $(CH_2)N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)(CH_2)-$, $-N(CH_3)SO_2-$, $-SO_2N(CH_3)-$, $-CH(R^9)CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(R^9)-$, $-(C=O)-$
 $-N(R^8)-$ or $-(S=O)-$ wherein R^7 and R^8 independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and wherein
 R^9 is C_{1-6} -alkyl or phenyl; and
p and q independently are 0 or 1; and
r is 1, 2, 3 or 4; and
Z is selected from





wherein g is 0, 1 or 2; and

R^{11u} is hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy or phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R^{12u} is $-(CH_2)_hOH$ or $-(CH_2)_jCOR^{17u}$ wherein h is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and j is 0 or 1 and wherein R^{17u} is -OH, -NHR^{20u} or C_{1-6} -alkoxy wherein R^{20u} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

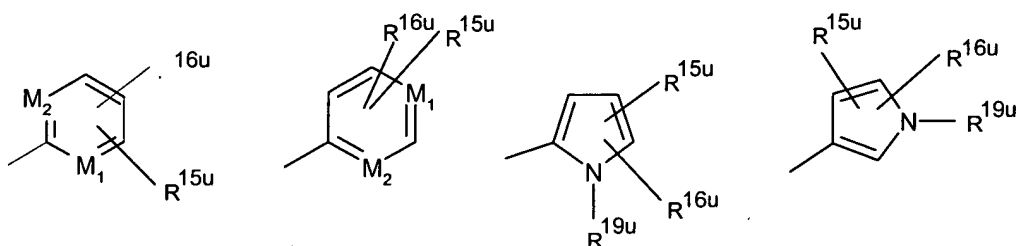
R^{13u} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R^{14u} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

C is C_{1-6} -alkylene, C_{2-6} -alkenylene or C_{2-6} -alkynylene; and

.... is optionally a single bond or a double bond; and

R^{18u} is selected from



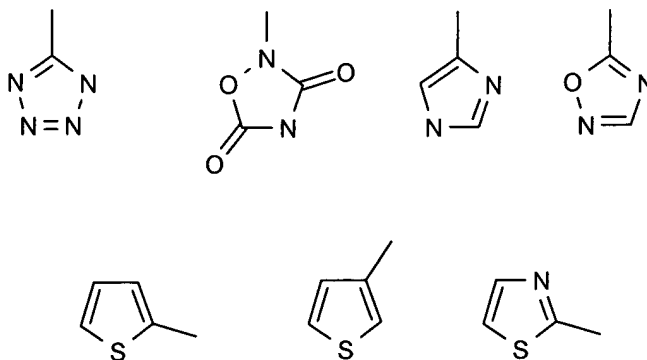
wherein M_1 and M_2 independently are C or N; and

R^{19u} is hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, phenyl or benzyl; and

R^{15u} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, nitro or cyano; and

R^{16u} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, nitro, cyano, $-(CH_2)_kCOR^{17u}$, $-(CH_2)_kOH$ or $-(CH_2)_kSO_2R^{17u}$ wherein k is 0, 1 or 2; or

R^{16u} is selected from



and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

19. (Amended) The method according to claim 18 wherein, the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

1-(2-(10,11-Dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(2-Chloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(2-Chloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(2-Methyl-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(2-Methyl-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(8-Chloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(8-Methylthio-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(10,11-Dihydrodibenzo[b,f]oxepin-10-yloxy)ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(2-Chloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-ylsulfanyl)ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

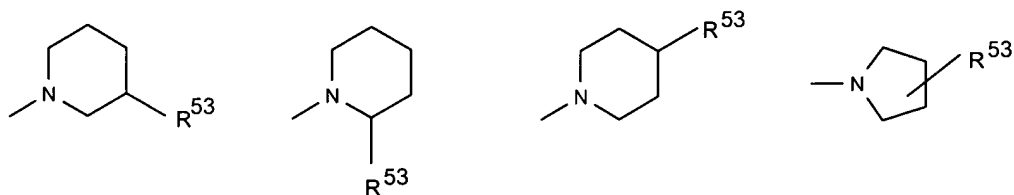
(R)-1-(11H-Dibenz[b,f][1,4]oxathiepin-11-ylmethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(2-Chloro-7-fluoro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(2,4-Dichloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

20. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein, in formula Ia, R^1 , R^{1a} , R^2 and R^{2a} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and
Y is $>\underline{N}-CH_2-$, $>\underline{CH}-CH_2-$ or $>\underline{C}=CH-$ wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system; and
X is ortho-phenylene, -O-, -S-, $-C(R^7R^8)-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2-(C=O)-$, $-(C=O)-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-N(R^8)-(C=O)-$, $-(C=O)-N(R^8)-$, $-O-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-O-$, $-OCH_2O-$, $-S-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-S-$, $-(CH_2)N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)(CH_2)-$, $-N(CH_3)SO_2-$, $-SO_2N(CH_3)-$, $-CH(R^9)CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(R^9)-$, $-(C=O)-$, $-N(R^8)-$ or $-(S=O)-$ wherein R^7 and R^8 independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and wherein R^9 is C_{1-6} -alkyl or phenyl; and
p and q are 0; and
r is 1, 2 or 3; and
Z is selected from



wherein R⁵³ is $-(CH_2)_{pp}COOH$ wherein pp is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; and
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

21. (Amended) The method according to claim 20 wherein, the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(1-(3-(10,11-Dihydrodibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-3-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(10,11-Dihydrodibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)piperidin-3-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(2-(10,11-Dihydrodibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)ethyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-yl)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(Thioxanthen-9-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(Xanthen-9-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(12H-Dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

4-(1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)-butyric acid;

3-(1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-2-yl)-propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(1-Bromo-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(2-Fluoro-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(2-Trifluoromethyl-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(2-Hydroxy-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(2-Methyl-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(2-Methoxy-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-yl)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(6,11-Dihydro-dibenz[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(2-Fluoro-6,11-dihydro-dibenz[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)-propionic acid;

4-(1-(3-(6,11-Dihydro-dibenz[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)butyric acid;

3-(1-(3-(6,11-Dihydro-dibenz[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-3-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(6,11-Dihydro-dibenz[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-2-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)pyrrolidin-3-yl)-propionic acid;

4-(1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)pyrrolidin-3-yl)-butyric acid;

3-(1-(3-(6,11-Dihydro-dibenz[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)-1-propyl)pyrrolidin-3-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(10H-Anthracen-9-ylidene)-1-propyl)pyrrolidin-3-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(Dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)pyrrolidin-3-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(10H-Anthracen-9-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

3-(1-(3-(Dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)propionic acid;

5-(1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-yl)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)pentanoic acid;

5-(1-(3-(6,11-Dihydro-dibenz[b,e]thiepin-11-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)pentanoic acid;

5-(1-(3-(Thioxanthen-9-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)pentanoic acid;

5-(1-(3-(12H-Dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-ylidene)-1-propyl)piperidin-4-yl)pentanoic acid,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

22. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein, in formula Ia, R^1 , R^{1a} , R^2 and R^{2a} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

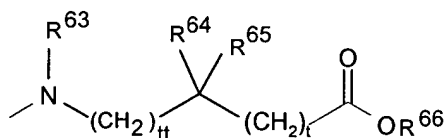
Y is $>\underline{\text{N}}\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$, $>\underline{\text{CH}}\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$, $>\underline{\text{C}}=\text{CH-}$ or $>\underline{\text{CH}}\text{-O-}$ wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system; and

X is ortho-phenylene, -O-, -S-, -C(R⁷R⁸)-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH=CH-, -CH₂-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -N(R⁸)-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-N(R⁸)-, -O-CH₂-, -CH₂-O-, -OCH₂O-, -S-CH₂-, -CH₂-S-, -(CH₂)N(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)(CH₂)-, -N(CH₃)SO₂-, -SO₂N(CH₃)-, -CH(R⁹)CH₂-, -CH₂CH(R⁹)-, -(C=O)-, -N(R⁸)- or -(S=O)- wherein R⁷ and R⁸ independently are hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl; and wherein R⁹ is C₁₋₆-alkyl or phenyl; and

p and q are 0; and

r is 1, 2 or 3; and

Z is



wherein tt and t independently are 0, 1 or 2; and

R⁶³ is H, C₁₋₆-alkyl or optionally substituted benzyl;

R⁶⁴ and R⁶⁵ independently are H, C₁₋₈-alkyl, C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl, phenyl, thienyl, benzyl, or R⁶⁴ and R⁶⁵ together with the C-atom they are attached to form a 3 - 8 membered carbocyclic ring; and

R⁶⁶ is H or C₁₋₆-alkyl;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

23. (Amended) The method according to claim 22 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

1-(2-(10,11-Dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(2-Chloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(2-Chloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(2-Methyl-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(2-Methyl-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(8-Chloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(8-Methylthio-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(10,11-Dihydrodibenzo[b,f]oxepin-10-yloxy)ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(2-Chloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-ylsulfanyl)ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(11H-Dibenz[b,f][1,4]oxathiepin-11-ylmethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(2-Chloro-7-fluoro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(2,4-Dichloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

24. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein, in formula Ia, R^1 , R^{1a} , R^2 and R^{2a} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl

or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and

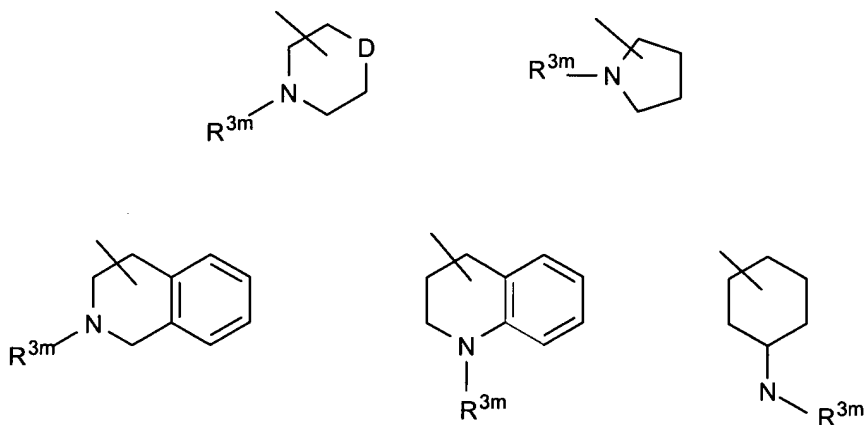
Y is $\text{>}\underline{\text{N}}\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$, $\text{>}\underline{\text{CH}}\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$ or $\text{>}\underline{\text{C}}\text{=CH-}$ wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system; and

X is ortho-phenylene, -O-, -S-, -C(R⁷R⁸)-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH=CH-, -CH₂-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -N(R⁸)-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-N(R⁸)-, -O-CH₂-, -CH₂-O-, -OCH₂O-, -S-CH₂-, -CH₂-S-, -(CH₂)N(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)(CH₂)-, -N(CH₃)SO₂-, -SO₂N(CH₃)-, -CH(R⁹)CH₂-, -CH₂CH(R⁹)-, -(C=O)-, -N(R⁸)- or -(S=O)- wherein R⁷ and R⁸ independently are hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl; and wherein R⁹ is C₁₋₆-alkyl or phenyl; and

p and q are 0; and

r is 0, 1 or 2; and

Z is selected from



wherein D is -CH₂-, -O-, -S- or -N(R⁷)- wherein R⁷ is H or C₁₋₆-alkyl; and

R^{3m} is -(CH₂)_{mm}OH or -(CH₂)_{mp}COR⁴ wherein mm and mp are 1, 2, 3 or 4 and R⁴ is OH, NH₂, NHOH or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

25. (Amended) The method according to claim 24 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

3-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-ylmethyl)-pyrrolidin-1-yl)-propionic acid;

(2-(2-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepin-5-ylmethyl)-morpholin-4-yl)-acetic acid;

(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenz[(b,f)azepin-5-ylmethyl)-1-piperidyl)acetic acid,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

26. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein, in formula Ia,

R^1 , R^{1a} , R^2 and R^{2a} independently are hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, methylthio, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

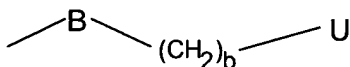
Y is $>\underline{N}$ -, $>\underline{CH}$ -, $>\underline{N}-(C=O)$ - or $>\underline{C}=C(R^8)$ -, wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system and R^8 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

X is ortho-phenylene, -O-, -S-, $-C(R^7R^8)$ -, $-CH_2CH_2$ -, $-CH=CH-CH_2$ -, $-CH_2-CH=CH$ -, $-CH_2-(C=O)$ -, $-(C=O)-CH_2$ -, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2$ -, $-CH=CH$ -, $-N(R^8)-(C=O)$ -, $-(C=O)-N(R^8)$ -, $-O-CH_2$ -, $-CH_2-O$ -, $-OCH_2O$ -, $-CH_2OCH_2$ -, $-S-CH_2$ -, $-CH_2-S$ -, $-(CH_2)N(R^8)$ -, $-N(R^8)(CH_2)$ -, $-N(CH_3)SO_2$ -, $-SO_2N(CH_3)$ -, $-CH(R^9)CH_2$ -, $-CH_2CH(R^9)$ -, $-(C=O)$ -, $-N(R^8)$ - or $-(S=O)$ - wherein R^7 and R^8 independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and wherein R^9 is C_{1-6} -alkyl or phenyl; and

p and q are 0; and

r is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and

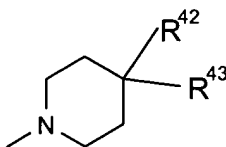
Z is



wherein b is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and

B is $-\text{CH}=\text{CR}^{49}$ -, $-\text{CR}^{49}=\text{CH}$ -, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}$ -, $-(\text{C}=\text{O})$ -, $-(\text{C}=\text{CH}_2)$ -, $-(\text{CR}^{49}\text{R}^{40})$ -, $-\text{CH}(\text{OR}^{41})$ -, $-\text{CH}(\text{NHR}^{41})$ -, phenylene, C_{3-7} -cycloalkylene or the completion of a bond, wherein R^{49} and R^{40} independently are hydrogen, C_{1-6} -unbranched alkyl, C_{3-6} -branched alkyl or C_{3-7} -cycloalkyl and wherein R^{41} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

U is



wherein R^{42} is hydrogen, $-(\text{CH}_2)_c\text{OH}$ or $-(\text{CH}_2)_d\text{COR}^{47}$ wherein c is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and d is 0 or 1 and wherein R^{47} is $-\text{OH}$ -, $-\text{NHR}^{44}$ or C_{1-6} -alkoxy wherein R^{44} is hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl; and

R^{43} is cyano, $-\text{NR}^{45}\text{R}^{46}$ -, $-\text{NR}^{45}-\text{V}$ or $-(\text{CHR}^{48})_e-\text{V}$ wherein R^{45} and R^{46} independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl and wherein e is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and wherein R^{48} is hydrogen,

halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, -NR⁴⁵R⁴⁶ or -COOH, and wherein V is C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, which rings may optionally be substituted with one or more halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methylthio, C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

27. (Amended) The method according to claim 26 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-phenyl-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-1-(3-(10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

4-(4-Methylphenyl)-1-(3-(10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-anilino-4-piperidinecarboxamide;

2-(1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-piperidyl)-2-phenylacetonitrile;

2-(1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-piperidyl)-2-phenylacetic acid;

1-(3-(10,11-Dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-cyano-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

28. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein, in formula Ib,

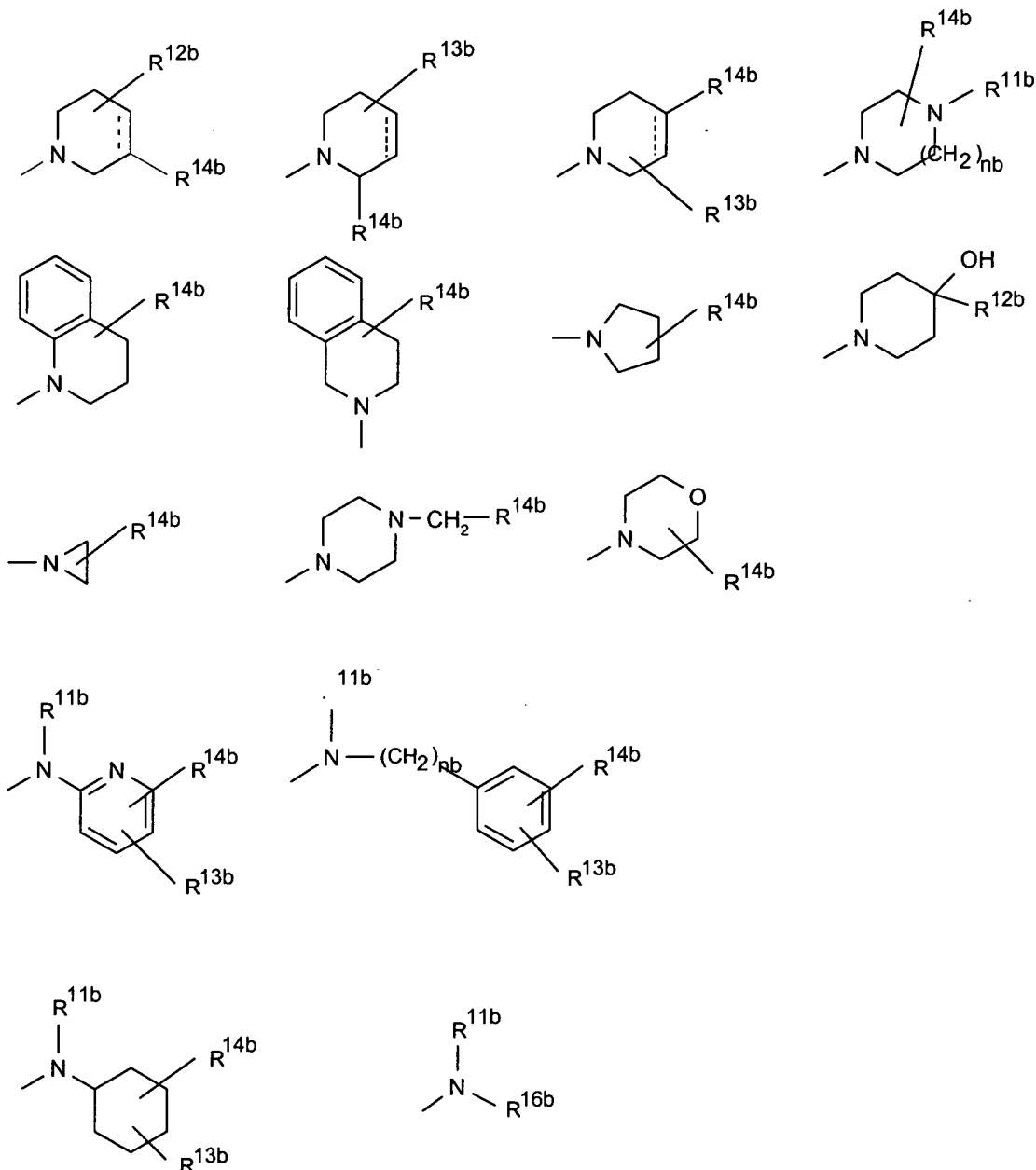
R^{1b} and R^{2b} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkoxy; and

R^{3b} is hydrogen or C_{1-3} -alkyl; and

A_b is C_{1-3} -alkylene; and

Y_b is $>\underline{C}H-CH_2-$, $>\underline{C}=CH-$, $>\underline{C}H-O-$, $>\underline{C}=N-$, $>\underline{N}-CH_2-$ wherein only the underscored atom participates in the ring system; and

Z_b is selected from



wherein nb is 1 or 2; and

R^{11b} is hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl; and

R^{12b} is hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy or phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, trifluoro-methyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and

R^{13b} is hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and

R^{14b} is -(CH₂)_{mb}OH or -(CH₂)_{tb}COR^{15b} wherein mb is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 and tb is 0 or 1 and wherein R^{15b} is -OH, NH₂, -NHOH or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and

R^{16b} is C₁₋₆-alkyl or -B_b-COR^{15b}, wherein B_b is C₁₋₆-alkylene, C₂₋₆-alkenylene or C₂₋₆-alkynylene and R^{15b} is the same as above; and

... is optionally a single bond or a double bond;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

29. (Amended) The method according to claim 28 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

1-(3-(12H-Dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(12H-Dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(12H-Dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid ethyl ester;

1-(3-(12H-Dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-ylidene)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(2,10-Dichloro-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(12H-Dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-pyrrolidineacetic acid;

1-(3-(2,10-Dichloro-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-ylidene)-1-propyl)-3-pyrrolidineacetic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(12H-Dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(2,10-Dichloro-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(3-(2-Chloro-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3,6]dioxazocin-12-yl)-1-propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(3-(12H-Dibenzo[d,g][1,3,6]dioxazocin-12-yl)-1-propyl)-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

2-Chloro-12-(3-dimethylamino)propylidene-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocine;

2,10-Dichloro-12-(2-dimethylamino)ethoxy-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocine;

2,10-Dichloro-12-(3-dimethylamino)propyl-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocine;

2,10-Dichloro-12-(3-dimethylamino-1-methyl)ethoxy-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocine;

3-Chloro-12-(2-dimethylaminopropylidene)-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocine;

3-Chloro-12-(3-dimethylamino)propylidene-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocine;

3-Chloro-12-(3-dimethylamino-1-methylpropylidene)-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocine;

2-Fluoro-12-(3-dimethylamino)propylidene-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocine;

2-Methyl-12-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)propylidene)-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocine;

2-Chloro-12-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)propylidene)-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocine;

3-Chloro-12-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)propylidene)-12H-dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocine;

1-(3-(12H-Dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-ylidene)propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid ethyl ester;

1-(3-(12H-Dibenzo[d,g][1,3]dioxocin-12-ylidene)propyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

30. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein, in formula Ic,

R^{1c} and R^{2c} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and

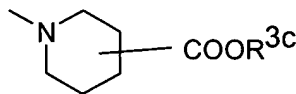
X_c is ortho-phenylene, -O-, -S-, -C(R^{6c}R^{7c})-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-CH₂-, -CH₂-CH=CH-, -CH₂-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -N(R^{8c})-(C=O)-, -(C=O)-N(R^{8c})-, -O-CH₂-, -CH₂-O-, -OCH₂O-, -S-CH₂-, -CH₂-S-, -(CH₂)N(R^{8c})-, -N(R^{8c})(CH₂)-, -N(CH₃)SO₂-, -SO₂N(CH₃)-, -CH(R^{10c})CH₂-, -CH₂CH(R^{10c})-, -(C=O)-, -N(R^{9c})- or -(S=O)- wherein R^{6c}, R^{7c}, R^{8c} and R^{9c} independently are hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl, and wherein R^{10c} is C₁₋₆-alkyl or phenyl; and

Y_c is C or N; and

.... is optionally a single bond or a double bond, and is a single bond when Y_c is N; and

mc is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; and

Z_c is -COOR^{3c} or



wherein R^{3c} is H or C₁₋₆-alkyl;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

31. (Amended) The method according to claim 30 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

1-(2-(10,11-Dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-(3R)-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(2-Chloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

1-(2-(2-Chloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-4-piperidine-carboxylic acid;

1-(2-(2-Methyl-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-4-piperidine-carboxylic acid;

1-(2-(2-Methyl-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidine-carboxylic acid;

1-(2-(8-Chloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidine-carboxylic acid;

1-(2-(8-Methylthio-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)-1-ethyl)-3-piperidine-carboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(10,11-Dihydrodibenzo[b,f]oxepin-10-yloxy)ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(2-Chloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-ylsulfanyl)ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(11H-Dibenz[b,f][1,4]oxathiepin-11-ylmethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(2-Chloro-7-fluoro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid;

(R)-1-(2-(2,4-Dichloro-10,11-dihydrodibenzo[b,f]thiepin-10-yloxy)ethyl)-3-piperidinecarboxylic acid,

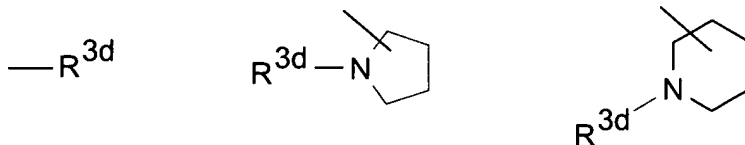
and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

32. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein, in formula Id, R^{1d} and R^{2d} independently are hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkoxy; and

X_d is -O-, -S- or -S(=O)-; and

rd is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 ; and

Z_d is selected from



wherein R^{3d} is $-(CH_2)_{md}OH$ or $-(CH_2)_{pd}COR^{4d}$ wherein md and pd independently are 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and R^{4d} is OH, NH_2 , $NHOH$ or C_{1-6} -alkoxy;
and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

33. (Amended) The method according to claim 32 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

4-(1,3,4,14b-Tetrahydro-2H-dibenzo[b,f]pyrazino[1,2-d][1,4]oxazepin-2-yl)-butanoic acid;

4-(1,3,4,14b-Tetrahydro-2H-dibenzo[b,f]pyrazino[1,2-d][1,4]thiazepin-2-yl)-butanoic acid,

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of the foregoing.

34. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is in a form suitable for oral administration.